

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00680 050558Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /100 W
-----023857 050601Z /14

R 041515Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5468
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0680

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, LY, CD, FR
SUBJECT: RADIO TRIPOLI CRITICIZES FRENCH MILITARY ACTIVITIES

1. MORE THAN HALF OF MORNING NEWS BROADCAST MAY 4 FOCUSED ON CHAD EVENTS AND INCLUDED HARSH CRITICISM OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR MALLOUM REGIME. NEGATIVE EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE FRENCH PRESS (SPECIFICALLY "LE MONDE," "LE FIGARO," AND OF COURSE "L'HUMANITE") WAS REPORTED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL AS WERE ACCUSATIONS OF FRENCH PERFDY BY SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST AND LABOR FIGURES.

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2. THIS TYPE OF CRITICAL REPORTING OF FRENCH "INTERVENTION" QUOTING NON-LIBYAN OBSERVERS NOT UNUSUAL, BUT TODAY'S NEWS BULLETIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANONYMOUS OFFICIAL COMMENTARY WHICH WAS MUCH HARSHER IN TONE. COMMENTATOR STATED THAT FRENCH MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN "VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD" (READ CHAD AND SOUTH LEBANON) WERE PART OF A FRENCH ATTEMPT TO "RETURN TO HER OLD IMPER-

IALIST POLICY" BECAUSE OF THE NEW AWARENESS OF PEOPLES
OF THE WORLD STRIVING TO BE RID OF THE "ENSLAVEMENT OF
IMPERIALISM AND REPRESSION" WHICH THEY SUFFERED FROM FOR
A LONG TIME. COMMENTATOR CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT
FRANCE WAS UNDERTAKING ITS "NEW IMPERIALISTIC INTENTIONS"
WITHOUT PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO HER SONS WHO ARE BEING
KILLED AND WOUNDED "IN WARS IN WHICH THEY HAVE NOTHING
TO GAIN AND IN AREAS FAR FROM FRANCE."

3. COMMENT. FRANCE HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR ROUGH
RADIO TREATMENT SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS
AND LATEST THEME IS THAT HER MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN
CHAD AND UNIFIL (AND PREVIOUSLY IN WESTERN SAHARA) ARE
ALL PART OF ALLEGED "IMPERIALIST/NEO-COLONIALIST" PLOT.
FRENCH EMBASSY HERE ABJURES SERIOUS WORRY ABOUT INCREASING
HARSHNESS AND FREQUENCY OF THESE COMMENTARIES WHICH
HAVE THUS FAR HAD NO EFFECT ON A MUTUALLY PROFITABLE
COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP.
CARLE

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